

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus which includes an image reading sensor for reading an image of an original document and converting the image into an electrical signal, which adjusts a direction ~~an optical-axis~~ of light irradiated and reflected by the original document to project the light on the image reading sensor and then reads the image of the original document by the image reading sensor to convert the image into the electrical signal, wherein

the image reading apparatus further comprises an output value detecting mechanism which detects an output value of the image reading sensor which is varied in accordance with a deviation in the direction of the reflected light ~~optical-axis~~, and

an ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting mechanism which adjusts the direction of the reflected light ~~optical-axis~~ such that the output value detected by the output value detecting mechanism becomes an appropriate value obtained when the direction of the reflected light and a peak position of illumination on a surface of the original document are aligned with each other.

4. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the image reading sensor comprises a CCD sensor.

5. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected,

a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position,

an ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw which is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed tighter or ~~loosening the screw~~ loosened to turn the mirror such that the direction ~~optical-axis~~ of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted, and

an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw, and which elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw is permitted.

6. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

a halogen lamp is provided ~~used~~ as a light source,

the image reading sensor comprises a three line CCD sensor,

the output value detecting mechanism includes a display section which displays a CCD output value,

the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected[[,]]; a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position[[,]]; an ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw which is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed tighter or ~~loosening the screw~~ loosened to turn the mirror such that the direction ~~optical-axis~~ of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted[[,]]; and an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw, and which elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw is permitted, and wherein

an angle of the mirror is adjusted by turning the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting screw of the ~~optical-axis~~ adjusting mechanism while confirming the CCD output value on the display section, thereby adjusting the direction of the light reflected by the mirror ~~optical-axis~~.

7. (New) An image reading apparatus which includes an image reading sensor for reading an image of an original document and converting the image into an electrical signal, which adjusts an optical axis of light irradiated and reflected by the original document to project the light on the image reading sensor and reads the image of the original document by the image reading sensor to convert the image into the electrical signal, wherein

the image reading apparatus further comprises an output value detecting mechanism which detects an output value of the image reading sensor which is varied in accordance with a deviation in the optical axis, and

an optical axis adjusting mechanism which adjusts the optical axis such that the output value detected by the output value detecting mechanism becomes an appropriate value, wherein the optical axis adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected, a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position, an optical axis adjusting screw which is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed tighter or loosened to turn the mirror such that the optical axis of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted, and an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the optical axis adjusting screw, and which elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the optical axis adjusting screw is permitted.

8. (New) An image reading apparatus which includes an image reading sensor for reading an image of an original document and converting the image into an electrical signal, which adjusts an optical axis of light irradiated and reflected by the original document to project the light on the image reading sensor and reads the image of the original document by the image reading sensor to convert the image into the electrical signal, wherein

the image reading apparatus further comprises an output value detecting mechanism which detects an output value of the image reading sensor which is varied in accordance with a deviation in the optical axis, and

an optical axis adjusting mechanism which adjusts the optical axis such that the output value detected by the output value detecting mechanism becomes an appropriate value,

wherein

a halogen lamp is used as a light source,

the image reading sensor comprises a three line CCD sensor,

the output value detecting mechanism includes a display section which displays a CCD output value,

the optical axis adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected, a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position, an optical axis adjusting screw which

is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed tighter or loosened to turn the mirror such that the optical axis of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted, and an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the optical axis adjusting screw, and which elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the optical axis adjusting screw is permitted, and wherein

an angle of the mirror is adjusted by turning the optical axis adjusting screw of the optical axis adjusting mechanism while confirming the CCD output value on the display section, thereby adjusting the optical axis.